



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 1.11

## Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/22

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 2 June 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Robert Parkin, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

- a) confirm that the size of the Audit and Governance Committee should be eight members; one member and one substitute from each Constituent Council and one independent person.
- b) appoint Mr Alan John Pye as the independent person of the Audit and Governance Committee for a term of four years ending May 2025.
- c) raise the remuneration for the role of the Independent Person as the Chair of the committee on a pro-rated basis, to reflect the increased activity of the committee, to £3068 per annum.
- d) to agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1;
- e) confirm the appointment of the Members and substitute Members nominated by Constituent Councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022 as set out in Appendix 2.(To follow)

- f) appoint a Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022 and delegate authority to elect the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members

## 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) agree the size and political balance of the Audit and Governance Committee;
- b) appoint Mr Alan John Pye as the independent person of the Audit and Governance Committee for a term of four years ending May 2025.
- c) appoint the members and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Committee;
- d) appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair to the Committee.

## 2. Background

2.1 In accordance with the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017, the Combined Authority is required to establish an Audit Committee.

2.2 The Order 2017 sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the committee as a whole should reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties of the constituent councils when taken together. The balance is based on membership of political parties, not political groups, on constituent councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2.3 Since 2017/18, the Board has agreed that the Audit and Governance Committee should have seven constituent members: one Member from each Constituent Council, together with one Independent person. The Board are asked to agree that the size of the committee remains the same.

2.4 The implications of applying political proportionality to a seven constituent member committee are detailed in Appendix 1.

2.5 Accordingly constituent councils have nominated the members and substitute members listed in Appendix 2 (to follow) for the municipal year 2021/22 based on the political balance calculation.

2.6 In previous years, discretion has been used to provide independent members a seat on both the Audit and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recognising the process operated through the exercise of discretion in previous years to provide an independent Member with a seat but ensuring the political balance of the Committee is not compromised, it has been proposed that the Audit and Governance Committee consider the co-option of an independent member (from a constituent Council) to the Committee. The co-opted member would not be given voting rights.

2.7 Should the Audit and Governance Committee agree to the co-option of an independent member, authority may be delegated from the Combined Authority Board to the Committee

to appoint a co-optee. The co-option would be for the municipal year 2021/22.

### **Independent Person**

- 2.8 The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requires the Combined Authority to appoint at least one independent person to the Audit and Governance Committee.

In June 2017 the Board agreed to appoint Mr Alan John Pye as the independent person for a term of four years and also agreed to appoint Mr Pye as the Chair of the committee for each subsequent year.

The current Independent Person for the statutory Combined Authority Audit & Governance Committee's term came to an end in May 2021. The Combined Authority Constitution allows for the four-year term of the Independent Person to be renewed up to a maximum of one further term (ie total maximum eight years).

Mr Pye has expressed an interest in continuing for a further four years.

The Board are asked to reappoint Mr Alan John Pye for a further four year term; the proposed new term of office would be from June 2021 until May 2025.

### **Independent Person Remuneration**

- 2.9 The Board is responsible for setting the remuneration of the Independent Person. The level was set in 2017, at £920 per annum and was increased to £1534 per annum to reflect the appointment of the Independent Person as the Chair for the Committee. At this time, there was an assumption that the number of meetings would be 4 per year. During the last 2020/21 municipal year, there were 8 meetings. It is expected that this increase in the volume of meetings will be permanent. Accordingly, it is proposed to increase the level of remuneration to £3068 as this reflects increased workload required of the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

### **Chair and Vice Chair**

- 2.10 In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee is reserved to the Board.
- 2.11 The Board has previously agreed that Mr Pye as the Independent Person for the Committee should be appointed as Chair of the Committee and has previously delegated the decision of electing a Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee to take place at their first meeting.
- 2.12 The Board are asked to appoint the Independent Person as Chair for the municipal year 2021/22 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined Authority to its members.

3.2 The appointed independent person will receive an allowance of £920 per annum.

## 4. Legal Implications

4.1 These are dealt with in the report.

## 5. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Political Balance of the Audit and Governance Committee

6.2 Appendix 2 – Nominations from Constituent Councils (to follow).

## 6. Background Papers

7.1 Constituent Councils AGM reports: [Cambridge City Council](#)  
[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)  
[East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)  
[Fenland District Council](#)  
[Huntingdonshire District Council](#)  
[Peterborough City Council](#)  
[South Cambs District Council](#)